

VOIR DIRE QUESTIONS BY THE COURT
Criminal Jury Trial Procedures

The Court will first conduct a preliminary examination, using questions such as the following. After the Court has finished its examination of the jury panel, counsel may elect to supplement the Court's examination with questions that do not repeat, in substance, any question the Court already has put to the panel.

1. I am now going to read the names of the parties and the witnesses that you may be hearing from in this case. Please listen to the list carefully as I will be asking you whether you know any of these people.

First, as I just told you, the government is represented by _____. Seated at the counsel table with _____ is _____.

At the next table is the Defendant in this case _____. He [or she] is represented by _____ of _____.

The United States may call the following persons as witnesses:

The Defendant in this case may call the following persons as witnesses:

Is any panel member related by blood or marriage to any of the individuals that I have just named?

Are you personally acquainted with these persons, or do you have any knowledge of them, directly or indirectly, through your social, business, or professional lives?

2. Has any panel member ever heard of or been involved with any of the following entities or persons: [List any businesses or non-witness entities that will be important in this case.] Are any of these names familiar to any panel member?

3. **OUTLINE THE OFFENSE PER INDICTMENT OR INFORMATION**

Does any panel member have prior knowledge or information about the offense(s) the defendant(s) is/are charged with, which I have just explained to you? This includes knowledge gained from personal contacts or from the media.

Follow-up Questions for Any Affirmative Responses:

- i. From what source did you hear about this case (newspaper, TV, radio, conversation with others)?

- ii. How many times did you hear or read about it?
 - iii. Do you remember specifically what you heard or read?
 - iv. Did what you heard or read cause you to have any feeling concerning the merits of the parties' claims?
 - v. Did what you heard or read cause you to have a favorable or an unfavorable impression concerning the parties?
 - vi. Do you today have any impression or even tentative opinion as to the probable outcome of this case?
4. Does any panel member have any personal interest of any kind in this case, or in the defendant(s)?
5. If any panel member has served as a juror in the federal or state court -- either in a civil or criminal case -- and regardless of the outcome of such case(s), would your prior experience have any effect or influence on your ability to serve as a fair and impartial juror in this case?
6. Does any panel member have any feeling -- thought -- inclination -- premonition -- prejudice -- religious belief or persuasion -- or bias -- which might influence or interfere with your full and impartial consideration and which might influence you either in favor of or against either the defendant(s) or the government?
7. Is there any reason in your mind why you cannot hear and consider the evidence and render a fair and impartial verdict?
8. Can you take the law as the Court instructs you, without any reservation whatsoever, and apply the facts to the Court's instructions on the law? If you cannot do this, please hold up your hand.
9. Do you recognize and accept the proposition that jurors are the sole judge of the facts and the Court is the sole judge of the law? If you cannot do this, please hold up your hand.
10. If you are selected as a juror in this case can you extend the presumption of innocence to this defendant(s); that is, can you presume the defendant(s) is/are innocent of the charge(s) unless and until guilt is established by proof which convinces you beyond a reasonable doubt? If you cannot do this, please hold up your hand.
11. Are you -- or is any member of your immediate family -- a member of a law enforcement

agency, i.e., municipal police, county sheriff, state highway patrol, or any federal law enforcement agency, either at the present time or in the past?

12. Does any panel member feel bias -- or prejudice -- because the defendant(s) has (have) been charged by indictment (information) with an offense(s) against the United States?
13. Has any panel member formed or expressed any opinion as to the guilt or innocence of the defendant(s)?
14. Does any panel member have:
 - a. Any transportation problem? For example, does anyone have difficulty getting to or from the courthouse?
 - b. Any medical or disability problems, such as difficulty hearing, walking or seeing? Does any other medical problem exist which could affect your service on the jury?
15. The Court and counsel estimated this trial will last ____ days. Does any panel member have any immediate family or personal reason or situation which persuades you that you cannot serve as a juror during this period and give your undivided attention to this case?
16. Finally, can any of you think of any matter that you should call to the Court's attention that may have some bearing on your qualifications as a juror, or that -- even to the slightest degree -- may prevent your rendering a fair and impartial verdict based solely upon the evidence and my instructions as to the law?